

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases ~~which has a structure in which~~ comprising:

a columnar body ~~made of~~ comprising porous ceramic ~~comprises a number of and~~ having a plurality of through holes, ~~said through holes being placed~~ extending in parallel with one another in ~~[[the]]~~ a length direction of the columnar body, the columnar body having a ~~[[with]]~~ wall portion interposed ~~therebetween;~~ between the through holes and configured to filter particulates in exhaust gases; and

a plurality of plugs filling ones of the through holes ~~predetermined through holes of said through holes are filled with plugs~~ at one end of ~~[[said]]~~ the columnar body, ~~while and filling ones of the through holes that have not been filled with said plugs at said one end are filled with plugs at the other end of [[said]] the columnar body; and a part or all of said wall portion functions as a filter for collecting particulates,~~

wherein the columnar body has a bending strength $F\alpha$ (MPa), ~~of said honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases and~~ the plurality of plugs has a length L (mm) of said plug in the length direction, and the columnar body and the plurality of plugs are formed such that the bending strength $F\alpha$ (MPa) and the length L (mm) are adjusted to ~~of the through hole~~ satisfy the relationship of $F\alpha \times L \geq 30$.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the bending strength $F\alpha$ (MPa) ~~of the honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases and the length L (mm) of the plug in the length direction of said through hole~~ satisfy the relationship of $F\alpha \times L \leq 200$.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising a catalyst is attached thereon~~ provided in the columnar body.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed in the wall portion~~ by a back washing process ~~using a gas flow.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed in the wall portion~~ by ~~heating exhaust gases and allowing the heated~~ exhaust gases to flow therein.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, ~~wherein further comprising a catalyst is attached thereon~~ provided in the columnar body.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed in the wall portion~~ by a back washing process ~~using a gas flow.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 3, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed in the wall portion~~ by a back washing process ~~using a gas flow.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 6, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates

collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed~~ in the wall portion by a back washing process ~~using a gas flow~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed~~ in the wall portion by ~~heating exhaust gases and allowing~~ the heated exhaust gases ~~to flow therein~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 3, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed~~ in the wall portion by ~~heating exhaust gases and allowing~~ the heated exhaust gases ~~to flow therein~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 6, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed~~ in the wall portion by ~~heating exhaust gases and allowing~~ the heated exhaust gases ~~to flow therein~~.

Claim 13 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body comprises a plurality of porous ceramic members and an adhesive layer comprising a sealing material and joining the plurality of porous ceramic members.

Claim 14 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 13, wherein the bending strength $F\alpha$ (MPa) and the length L (mm) satisfy the relationship of $F\alpha \times L \leq 200$.